

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 01428 090203Z

62

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 IO-14 OMB-01 EUR-25 AID-20

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2750

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

CINCPACREP AUSTRALIA

UNCLAS CANBERRA 1428

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL FROM AMBASSADOR GREEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEATO, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN EDITORIAL ACCEPTS CONTINUING USEFULNESS
OF SEATO

REF: STATE 046583

IT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST AND HELP TO YOU TO KNOW THAT
THE AUSTRALIAN (A RESPONSIBLE NEWSPAPER WITH NATIONWIDE
CIRCULATION AND SYMPATHETIC TO WHITLAM GOVERNMENT) EDITORIALIZED
MARCH 9 AS FOLLOWS, REFERRING TO YOUR TESTIMONY BEFORE
SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON SEATO:

QTE THE IMPORTANCE OF SEATO'S SYMBOLIC ROLE HAS BEEN
RECOGNIZED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DESPITE THE EXISTENCE
OF A FACTION WITHIN IT WHICH, LIKE SENATOR CHRUCH,
WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT DISBANDED. MR. WHITLAM ACTED EF-
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PAGE 02 CANBER 01428 090203Z

FECTIVELY TO EMASCULATE SEATO MILITARILY--IT WAS NEVER VERY

VIRILE--BUT HE RECOGNIZED ITS VALIDITY AS A LARGELY ECONOMIC UNIT WHICH, LIKE THE BROADER ANZUS TREATY, WOULD KEEP AMERICAN LOCKED INTO REGIONAL AFFAIRS.

QTE SEATO TODAY IS A LOW-KEY USEFUL ORGANIZATION. AS THE JEWISH PEOPLE SAY: IT MIGHTN'T HELP MUCH, BUT IT DOESN'T HURT. END QTE.

YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO RECALL THAT PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM, IN AN ADDRESS TO THE THAI-AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION IN BANGKOK FEB 1 , 1974 , SAID OF SEATO: QTE----WHEN WE ADDRESSED OURSELVES TO THIS MATTER ON ASSUMING OFFICE 14 MONTHS AGO, IT WAS URGED UPON US THAT WITHDRAWAL BY AUSTRALIA WOULD DAMAGE CONFIDENCE IN THE AREA. WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE POSITION OF THAILAND PARTICULARLY IN MIND, AND THE IMPORTANCE THAILAND ATTACHES TO THE MANILA TREATY, WE THEREFORE AGREED TO WORK WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION FOR MODIFICATION OF ITS OPERATION AND ORIENTATION: UNDERPIN CONFIDENCE, YES, UNDERWRITE CONTAINMENT, NO. AND WITH THE COOPERATION AND AGREEMENT OF ALL MEMBERS, THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE DONE...END QTE GREEN

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Message Attributes

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